television 100, as shown in FIG. 2D.

In the case where the DVD player 200 is connected to a digital audio apparatus without an image display, it is possible that information about the menus provided by the DVD

5 and the DVD player 200 are transmitted to the digital audio apparatus in the text form and that the text menu items are displayed on a small liquid crystal display (LCD) on the digital audio apparatus. In this case, the digital audio apparatus is equipped with a keypad consisting of arrow keys or numeric keys

10 to enable a user to select a menu item by using arrow keys or numeric keys. Once a menu item is selected, the digital audio apparatus transmits a command associated with the menu item to the DVD player 200 in order to request the corresponding operation.

15 Accordingly, the present invention enables a user of a digital apparatus like a digital television to conveniently request and execute various operations or functions of external digital devices that are connected to the digital apparatus without the direct control of or access to the external digital

20 devices.

The foregoing is provided only for the purpose of illustration and explanation of the preferred embodiments of the present invention, so changes, variations and modifications may be made without departing from the spirit and

25 scope of the invention.

What is claimed is:

1. A method of menu-based remote control of external devices that are connected to an audio/video apparatus, comprising the steps of:

30 (a) displaying a menu image including menu items, each menu item corresponding to each external device, such that one of the external devices is selected from the menu;

(b) requesting to the external device that is selected

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from said menu a menu data including detailed menu items associated with operations of said selected external device; and

     (c) receiving the menu data for the detailed menu from said selected external device and displaying the menu image, the menu data being provided from the selected device without data conversion for constructing . menu screen.

     2. A method according to claim 1, wherein each menu item of said menu image in said step (a) corresponds to each of the external devices that are connected to said audio/video apparatus through IEEE 1394 interface.

     3. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of checking what external devices are connected through a common bus before said step (a)

     4. A method according to claim 3, wherein said checking step is performed in response to a user request of said menu for selection of said external devices.

     5. A method according to claim 3, wherein said checking step is performed when communication with said external devices through the common bus is possible.

     6. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of displaying a menu item differently from other menu items on the menu image displayed in said step (c) when a cursor is positioned over the menu item during the movement of the cursor.

     7. A method according to claim 6, wherein said menu item over which said cursor is positioned is displayed differently from other menu items on the basis of information about the positions of menu items on said menu image, said information being provided by said selected external device.

     8. A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of transmitting information about the current position of a cursor on the menu image displayed in said step (c) to said selected external device when a selection key is entered by a user.

9. A method of menu-based remote control of external devices that are connected to an audio/video apparatus, comprising the steps of:

(a) displaying a menu image including menu items, each menu item corresponding to each external device, such that one of the external devices is selected from the menu;

(b) requesting to the external device that is selected from said menu a menu data including detailed menu items associated with operations of said selected external device

(c) receiving the menu data for the detailed menu from said selected external device and displaying the menu image, the menu data being provided from the selected device without data conversion for constructing . menu screen; and

(d) obtaining information about the position of a cursor on said image of the detailed menu in response to a user input and transmitting said information to said external device.

10. A method according to claim 9, wherein a menu item over which said cursor is positioned during the movement of said cursor is displayed differently from other menu items in color and/or brightness.